

health costs while penalizing those providers in low-cost areas for the same services; and

Whereas, Wisconsin and other upper mid-western states have traditionally been paid less per Medicare enrollee due to our efficient, low-cost management of health care services; and

Whereas, Wisconsin receives the 8th lowest Medicare payments per enrollee in the nation; and

Whereas, if Wisconsin received Medicare payments at the national average, an additional \$1,000,000,000 in benefits would flow to our seniors and their health care providers; and

Whereas, Wisconsin should no longer be a "donor" state by contributing its fair share to the federal program while receiving fewer benefits and lower reimbursements in return; and

Whereas, the failure of Wisconsin Medicare to cover the cost of health care for its beneficiaries shifts the cost burden to employers and the privately insured, translating into a hidden tax increase that contributes to rising health insurance premiums and the uninsured population; and

Whereas, an increase in the uninsured would have a detrimental impact on the health of many Wisconsin citizens, would drive up health care costs, and could lead to a significant rise in the use of government programs such as BadgerCare or Medical Assistance, thus requiring additional funding from Wisconsin taxpayers; and

Whereas, another practical result of this payment inequity is that Wisconsin's seniors are denied access to the broad range of affordable benefits and services that seniors in many other states take for granted; and

Whereas, in places where reimbursement rates are high, such as Florida, Medicare health maintenance organizations can offer their plans without a premium, while in Wisconsin the Medicare population has limited access to health maintenance organization care; and

Whereas, Wisconsin's hospitals are paid 14% less than their costs and thus rank 45th nationally in percentage of costs paid for providing services to Medicare beneficiaries; and

Whereas, Wisconsin physicians are paid approximately one-third less of their costs, and Wisconsin consistently ranks nationally as one of the 10 lowest states in Medicare reimbursement for medical services provided; and

Whereas, the impact of this inequity has not translated into the delay, by 50% of Wisconsin physicians who treat Medicare patients, in the purchase of new and needed equipment; and

Whereas, 15% of physicians have started restricting the number of new Medicare patients that they will accept while another 9% can no longer afford to accept new Medicare patients, despite an aging Wisconsin population; and

Whereas, physicians who are still currently seeing Medicare patients have reduced their number of weekly appointments by 18%; and

Whereas, the Medicare cuts cost Wisconsin physicians \$40,000,000 last year, forcing 6% of physicians to close their private practices because they could no longer cover their overhead costs and pay their staff; and

Whereas, the impact of this inequity means the poor, disabled, and elderly will face serious challenges trying to access care; and

Whereas, the impact of this inequity threatens the viability of our health care providers, especially in rural Wisconsin where Medicare enrollees typically constitute over 50% of a hospital's costs; and

Whereas, allowing Medicare reimbursement formula to exist in its current form will guarantee even greater cost-shifting,

unending double-digit health insurance premium increases, an increase in the uninsured, a continued decrease in physicians accepting Medicare patients, and fewer hospitals; and

Whereas, Wisconsin hospitals, physicians, and insurers stand united in their effort to ensure that Wisconsin providers receive the payments that they deserve, and that patients receive the benefits that they deserve; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the senate, That the Wisconsin senate urges the members of the congressional delegation from this state to work to enact legislation that would reform the current Medicare system and create a funding method that will dispense equal benefits regardless of geography; and, be it further

Resolved, That the senate chief clerk shall send copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the speaker of the U.S. house of representatives, the president of the U.S. senate, and all of the members of the congressional delegation from this state.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 724. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to exempt certain rocket propellants from prohibitions under that title on explosive materials.

By Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on the Judiciary, without amendment:

S. 1233. A bill to authorize assistance for the National Great Blacks in Wax Museum and Justice Learning Center.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. McCAIN for the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

*Annette Sandberg, of Washington, to be Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

Coast Guard nomination of Rear Adm. (lh) Duncan C. Smith.

Coast Guard nominations beginning Rear Adm. (lh) Sally Brice-O'Hara and ending Rear Adm. (lh) David B. Peterman, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 22, 2003.

Coast Guard nomination of Mary Ann C. Gosling.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. GRAHAM of Florida:

S. 1289. A bill to name the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota, after Paul Wellstone; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. HOLLINGS:

S. 1290. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow an additional advance refunding of tax-exempt bonds issued for the purchase or maintenance of electric generation, transmission, or distribution assets; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. BAUCUS):

S. 1291. A bill to authorize the President to impose emergency import restrictions on archaeological or ethnological materials of Iraq until normalization of relations between the United States and the Government of Iraq has been established; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. LANDRIEU:

S. 1292. A bill to establish a servitude and emancipation archival research clearinghouse in the National Archives; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. DEWINE, and Mr. EDWARDS):

S. 1293. A bill to criminalize the sending of predatory and abusive e-mail; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. PRYOR):

S. 1294. A bill to authorize grants for community telecommunications infrastructure planning and market development, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI:

S. 1295. A bill to clarify the definition of rural airports; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI:

S. 1296. A bill to exempt seaplanes from certain transportation taxes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself and Mr. TALENT):

S. 1297. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, with respect to the jurisdiction of Federal courts inferior to the Supreme Court over certain cases and controversies involving the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. AKAKA (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 1298. A bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to ensure the humane slaughter of non-ambulatory livestock, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 1299. A bill to amend the Trade Act of 1974 to provide trade readjustment and development enhancement for America's communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. CANTWELL:

S. 1300. A bill to prohibit a health plan from contracting with a pharmacy benefit manager (PBM) unless the PBM satisfies certain requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DEWINE (for himself and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 1301. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit video voyeurism in the special maritime and territorial jurisdiction of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. WARNER, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. BYRD, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEVIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. REID, Ms. STABENOW, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. KOHL, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BREAUX, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. CARPER, Mr. DODD, Ms. MIKULSKI,

Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. REED, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 1302. A bill to provide support for the Daniel Patrick Moynihan Global Affairs Institute; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. CORZINE (for himself and Mr. LAUTENBERG):

S. Res. 176. A resolution recognizing the National Hockey League's New Jersey Devils and National Basketball Association's New Jersey Nets for their accomplishments during the 2002-2003 season; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. DODD:

S. Res. 177. A resolution to direct the Senate Commission on Art to select an appropriate scene commemorating the Great Compromise of our forefathers establishing a bicameral Congress with equal State representation in the United States Senate, to be placed in the lunette space in the Senate reception room immediately above the entrance into the Senate chamber lobby, and to authorize the Committee on Rules and Administration to obtain technical advice and assistance in carrying out its duties; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 189

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 189, a bill to authorize appropriations for nanoscience, nano-engineering, and nanotechnology research, and for other purposes.

S. 300

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 300, a bill to award a congressional gold medal to Jackie Robinson (posthumously), in recognition of his many contributions to the Nation, and to express the sense of Congress that there should be a national day in recognition of Jackie Robinson.

S. 321

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 321, a bill to provide for the establishment of a scientific basis for new fire-fighting technology standards, improve coordination among Federal, State, and local fire officials in training for and responding to terrorist attacks and other national emergencies, and for other purposes.

S. 346

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 346, a bill to amend the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act to establish a governmentwide policy re-

quiring competition in certain executive agency procurements.

S. 451

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI) and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 451, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to increase the minimum Survivor Benefit Plan basic annuity for surviving spouses age 62 and older, to provide for a one-year open season under that plan, and for other purposes.

S. 491

At the request of Mr. REID, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SANTORUM) were added as cosponsors of S. 491, a bill to expand research regarding inflammatory bowel disease, and for other purposes.

S. 504

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. ENSIGN), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. DAYTON), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 504, a bill to establish academies for teachers and students of American history and civics and a national alliance of teachers of American history and civics, and for other purposes.

S. 518

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 518, a bill to increase the supply of pancreatic islet cells for research, to provide better coordination of Federal efforts and information on islet cell transplantation, and to collect the data necessary to move islet cell transplantation from an experimental procedure to a standard therapy.

S. 564

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. CORZINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 564, a bill to facilitate the deployment of wireless telecommunications networks in order to further the availability of the Emergency Alert System, and for other purposes.

S. 569

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from Missouri

(Mr. TALENT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 569, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the medicare outpatient rehabilitation therapy caps.

S. 668

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 668, a bill to amend the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 to provide incentive grants to improve the quality of child care.

S. 778

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. LOTT) were added as cosponsors of S. 778, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide medicare beneficiaries with a drug discount card that ensures access to affordable prescription drugs.

S. 847

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 847, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to permit States the option to provide medicaid coverage for low income individuals infected with HIV.

S. 882

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 882, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide improvements in tax administration and taxpayer safe-guards, and for other purposes.

S. 982

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 982, a bill to halt Syrian support for terrorism, end its occupation of Lebanon, stop its development of weapons of mass destruction, cease its illegal importation of Iraqi oil, and hold Syria accountable for its role in the Middle East, and for other purposes.

S. 982

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. ENSIGN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 982, supra.

S. 1019

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 1019, a bill to amend titles 10 and 18, United States Code, to protect unborn victims of violence.

S. 1020

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1020, a bill to amend the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 and the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to improve the school breakfast program.

S. 1021

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms.